

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 13800 110934Z

44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

----- 095740

R 110730Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8145

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, NI

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREANS VISIT LAGOS

REF: ABIDJAN 11406 (NOTAL)

1. POLCOUNS MET WITH ROK AMBASSADOR HAN WOO SUK DECEMBER 9. SOUTH KOREAN ENVOY TO IVORY COAST ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AS REPORTED REFTEL. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD MADE TRIP TO NIGERIA BECAUSE THE ROK AMBASSADOR IN YAOUNDE, WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONVERING LAGOS, HAD BEEN REFUSED A VISA BY NIGERIAN EMBASSY. SUK CONFIRMED THAT FMG HAD ADVISED NIGERIAN EMBASSY ABIDJAN THAT LAGOS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED RECEIVE HIM BUT THAT NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAD NEVERTHELESS

ISSUED VISA AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION IN LAGOS MIGHT BE ABLE ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM. HE CAME TO LAGOS TO "LOOK INTO THE SITUATION."

2. IN HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION, POLCOUNS TOLD SUK THAT IN EMBASSY'S VIEW TIMING IS NOT NOW PROPITOUS TO PUSH FOR ESTABLISHMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 13800 110934Z

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FMG. GIVEN TIME, NIGERIANS MIGHT

SEE LOGIC IN THE ARGUMENT THAT TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT SHOULD MEAN EQUAL TREATMENT OF BOTH KOREAS. AT PRESENT JUICYTWCE, HOWEVER, IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A CHANGE IN POLICY. THOSE INDIVIDUALS IN MEA AND FMG WHO ARE FRIENDS OF SOUTH KOREA WOULD BE PLACED IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION WERE ROK TO PRESS TOO HARD NOW. PRESENT FMGG OLICY G PRESULT OF DECISON TAKEN AT HIOHEST LEVELS (RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL) AND NOT LIKELY BE REVERSED IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. OUR SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG SUGGESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH SEOUL HAVE ELICITED NO MORE THAN A GRUDGING PROMISE FROM EXTAFF COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER; HE LIKELY USED THIS AS PLOY TO END DISCUSSION OF AN AWKWARD SUBJECT.

3. SUK ALSO ADVISED TO PROTECT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION IN LAGOS. HE CONFIRMED THAT FMG RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG HAS NOT YET AFFECTED EITHER THE OPERATION OF THE RESIDENT TRADE MISSION OR COMMERCIAL DEALINGS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND NIGERIA. HE DID COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE TRADE MISSION'S CONTACTS WITH NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE LIMITED TO LOWER ECHELON OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE. POLCOUNS COMMENTED THAT NIGERIANS ARE TRADE ORIENTED AND THAT IT MIGHT BE IN THIS FIELD THAT SOUTH KOREANS COULD MOST EASILY ESTABLISH SOLID RELATIONSHIPS AND EXERT SOME INFLUENCE. HE SUGGESTED THAT TRADE MISSION WORK WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS SECTOR, INCLUDING NIGERIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH IS ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF NEWLY CREATED ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS). A TRADE DELEGATION FROM THE CHAMBER (OR FROM ASSOCIATION OF WEST AFRICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED VISIT SOUTH KOREA. BECAUSE THE CHAMBER AND ITS MEMBERS ARE WELL CONNECTED WITH THE FMG A SUCCESSFUL VISIT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVES HERE. SUK AGREED.

4. AT CONCLUSION THIS PORTION OF CONVERSATION AND AFTER THANKING EMBASSY FOR ITS EFFORTS ON BEHALF ROK, SUK VOLUNTEERED THAT ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD ALSO CAUTIONED HIM TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN HIS APPROACHES TO FMG. THE ROK AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD ALSO BE MEETING WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 13800 110934Z

OFFICIALS DURING CURRENT VISIT.

5. OTHER POINTS RAISED INCLUDED NIGERIAN-AMERIVFN RBGATIONS AND PRC ACTIVITIES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SUK WAS INFORMED THAT U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED SINCE THE LOW POINTS REPRESENTED BY THE ANGOLAN CRISIS AND THE WAVE OF YCTI-FOREIGN SUSPICION WHICH FOILLOWED THE ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL MUHAMMED. POLCOUNS TOLD SUK THAT THERE IS A

CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN
U.S. AND FMG WHICH INCLUDES
EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON KOREAN QUESTION WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.
WITH REGARD PRC ACTIVITIES, SUK REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREANS
ARE WORKING OUT OF THE PRC EMBASSY IN LAGO AND ASKYJ IF WE KNEW
ABOUT THE SITUATION. POLCOUNS SAID HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD
THE REPORT. (COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION TO
CONFIRM SUK'S ALLEGATION. END COMMENT).

6. COMMENT: SUK APPEARED TO BE PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT PRESENT SITU-
ATION AND TO ACCEPT THAT HE UNLIKELY TO BE RECEIVED BY FMG OFFICIALS
ON THIS TRIP. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT ASK, NOR DID WE VOLUNTEER,
TO INTERCEDE WITH MEA ON HIS BEHALF. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH ANNEFFORT
WOULD HAVE TENDED CONFIRM PREVALENT NIGERIAN CONTENTION THAT ROK
IS CLIENT STATE OF U.S. NOT ONLY IS IT UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD
HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING SOUTH KOREANS A HEARING, BUT IT
EXTREMELY IMPROBABLE THAT A MEETING, IF ARRANGED, WOULD HAVE
CHANGED FMG POLICY OR HELPED ROK'S POSITION. IN FACT, SUK'S
PRESENCE AFTER CLEAR SIGNALS FROM MEA THAT HE OUGHT NOT TO COME
COULD RESULT IN ADVERSE REACTION, PERHAPS INVOLVING SOME ACTION
AGAINST TRADE MISSION. ROK SHOULD BE CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS ATTEMPTS
TO DEAL WITH FMG. AT MOMENT, MOST PRUDENT WAY TO COMMUNICATE
MIGHT BE THROUGH FRIENDLY NIGERIAN AMBASSADORS IN THIRD COUNTRY
CAPITALS WHERE BOTH ROK AND FMG HAVE REPRESENTATIVES.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISITS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS13800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-1128
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761251/aaaabrpf.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ABIDJAN 11406
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH KOREANS VISIT LAGOS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, NI, (HAN WOO SUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006